

Table 20: State Listed Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Designation	State Designation
Stonecat	<i>Noturus flavus</i>	N/A	Endangered
Brook floater	<i>Alasmidonta varicosa</i>	FSC	Endangered
Slippershell mussel	<i>Alasmidonta viridis</i>	N/A	Endangered
Tennessee Pigtoe	<i>Fusconaia barnesiana</i>	N/A	Endangered
Spike	<i>Elliptio dilatata</i>	N/A	Special Concern
Wavy-rayed mussel	<i>Lampsilis fasciola</i>	N/A	Special Concern

Listed above in **Table 20** are the six state-listed species documented in the Little Tennessee River within and 3.0 miles upstream/downstream of the project study area. The SR species, Appalachian azure, a butterfly, has also been documented from the project vicinity. During field investigations, ESI biologists documented a relic shell of a spike (a freshwater mussel) along the banks of the Little Tennessee River.

4. Invasive Species

Four species from the NCDOT Invasive Exotic Plant List for North Carolina were found to occur in the study area. The species identified were: multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), kudzu (*Pueraria montana*) and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*). Multiflora rose, Chinese privet and kudzu are listed as threat level 1 and considered to be a severe threat to habitat and natural areas. Japanese honeysuckle is listed as threat level 2 and considered to be a threat to habitat and natural areas. NCDOT will follow the Department's Best Management Practices for the management of invasive plant species.

VIII. COMMENTS AND COORDINATION

A. Comments Solicited

Federal, state, and local agencies were consulted during the preparation of this environmental document. Written comments were received and considered from agencies noted with an asterisk (*) during the preparation of this assessment.

- * U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- * U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Tennessee Valley Authority
- * Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- * N.C. Department of Cultural Resources
N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- * N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission
N.C. Division of Water Quality

Written comments received from the noted agencies appear in **Appendix B** have been addressed in this document.